

## REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

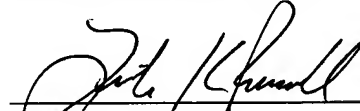
With this Reply, Claims 15 and 17-30 remain in this application. Claims 1-14, 16 and 31-33 have been previously cancelled.

In response to the Examiner's communication, the Abstract and Drawings have been amended accordingly. The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for her phone call of January 15, 2004 to follow-up on this matter.

## CONCLUSION

In view of the current amendments, the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Application No. 10/016,067  
Reply to Examiner's Communication dated November 28, 2003

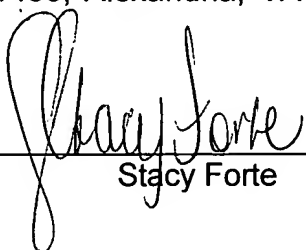
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2004.

  
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Stacy Forte

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